Flaws in Sethu Samudram Mega-project

414. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Tad Murty (NRI Scientist) has found certain flaws in the construction of Sethu Samudram Mega-project and has expressed certain apprehensions over control of Tsunami as a result;

(b) if so, the details of flaws and his apprehensions;

(c) whether he has suggested certain corrections in the model of the project to overcome the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how far the new model would help to save the population of our coastline?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of rubberised roads

415. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments for the construction of rubberised roads have been carried out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose indicating the utilization thereof, till date;

(d) whether Government propose to construct rubberised road in Mumbai; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which construction of such roads would commence in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The Ministry had carried out a study under the Research Scheme R-54 amounting to Rs 7.46 lakhs to investigate the effect of use of rubber and polymer

modified bitumen in improving the performance of the roads. The study was completed in the year 2000.

(b) and (e) The use of polymer/rubber modified bitumen has been proposed for surfacing works of improvement projects on Eastern and Western Express Highways in an aggregate length of 42.70 kilometers in Mumbai. The work on these projects is expected to be completed by October 2005.

National Highway projects in Karnataka

416. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National highway projects that were approved in the last five years by Government and the financial outlay involved;

(b) the number out of these that have been completed and which are yet to be completed;

(c) whether any time-frame has been prescribed for the purpose;

(d) if so, to what extent implementation is according to the schedule;

(e) how many of these are located in Karnataka; and

(f) the investment involved, project-wise and by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) During the last five years, 3661 works for improvement works on National Highways with an aggregate cost of Rs.8154.71 crore were approved. Out of these 2613 works have been completed and balance 1048 works are in progress.

In addition to this, the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in two phases *i.e.* NHDP Phase-I costing Rs.30,300 crore (at 1999 price) and Phase-II costing Rs.34,339 crore (at 2002 price) for widening to 4-lanes for a total length of 14,279 km of National Highways were approved